

Unite in shared pride over success of Asean Summit: PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia's success in hosting the 47th Asean Summit should be a source of pride for all Malaysians, regardless of political affiliation and not a subject of criticism or division.

He said among the significant achievements during the summit were the admission of Timor-Leste as Asean's 11th member and the signing of the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord between Thailand and Cambodia, both milestones that should unite Malaysians in shared pride.

Anwar said international recognition of Malaysia's active role in promoting regional peace, including from major powers such as the United States (US), clearly demonstrates the growing confidence in the country's diplomatic capability.

"Today, Malaysia's name shines on the world stage, something that has rarely happened in our history. Let us seize this moment to strengthen our nation.

"Do not be resentful of our nation's success. This is the country's achievement. Prime ministers may come and go, rise and fall, but the nation must always be uplifted," he said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to a supplementary question from Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman (Muda-Muar) on Malaysia's efforts to balance its diplomatic and trade relations with major global powers.

Anwar said Malaysia's success was also reflected in its ability to bring together major powers, including the US, Russia and China, as well as representatives from the BRICS bloc, for a series of bilateral meetings at the summit.

"Imagine, within just a few days, we engaged with the US, Brazil, Africa, China and Russia, and all discussions were handled constructively.

"As a relatively small but developing nation we must continue strengthening trade and investment ties with everyone."

He added that Malaysia's growing global recognition should not be viewed as a personal success for the prime minister but the result of the collective efforts of tens of thousands of civil servants and volunteers.

Anwar extended his appreciation to all civil servants, uniformed personnel, students and private sector participants for their outstanding contributions to the summit's success. - Bernama